



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Council on Aging
SENIOR CENTER

31 MARSHALL STREET
WATERTOWN, MASS. 02472-3403
TELEPHONE: (617) 972-6490
FAX: (617) 972-6493
www.watertown-ma.gov

Caryl Leslie Fox
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, Chairperson

Minutes of COA Board Meeting - December 14, 2011

Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Will Twombly, and Mike Donham.

Member excused absence: Dottie Fleming, Hagop Sarkissian, and V.V. Martin.

Staff members present: Caryl Fox, Laura Gold, and Debbie Dunn.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Pat Gold at 5:30 pm.

1. Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

Board members reviewed the minutes from the previous month. Caryl Fox noted a correction. Mike Donham made a motion that the minutes be accepted as corrected and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

Members of the Board reviewed the November financial statements. Caryl Fox noted that a report from the consultant on energy recommendations for all buildings, including the Senior Center, has been received by the Town. The Food Pantry has received a large number of monetary donations from the community this month.

3. Senior Center Inclement Weather Policy:

The policy was reviewed for Board members. In case of snow, activities are cancelled and bus does not run if Watertown schools are closed. If school has a delayed opening, there is no morning shopping bus run and no morning activities. The bus driver and class instructors may cancel if they don't think the driving is safe. Seniors also are encouraged to use their own best judgment. Staff is always here unless the Town closes buildings for the day.

4. LGBT Update:

Will Twombly reported for the committee that has been working on this issue through the Marshall Home Board. The Marshall Home Fund has appropriated funds for a training in the spring. Springwell will facilitate the meeting and the speaker will be from Greater Boston LGBT. It will be open to those who work with seniors in many different capacities. The goals are educating and raising awareness of issues that the current generation of LGBT seniors may experience while receiving services from those who provide services.

5. Snow Shoveling Preparedness:

Board member, Will Twombly, raised a concern for seniors and those with disabilities who are unable to walk around outside because some people don't shovel their sidewalk. The Watertown Town Council is not looking to pass an ordinance at this time. The suggestion is to help people in the community become more aware of the importance of cleaning their walkways. The COA will put an

article in the newsletter, the Tab, cable television, and Caryl Fox will speak with Assessor, Frank Golden, to see if a flyer can be put into the tax bills.

6. "Watertown Village" Initial Information:

On December 6, 2011, Caryl Fox and Kathleen Wolf met with Ruth Fleischer and Jackie Dobson, two Watertown residents who are working (with others) on an aging-in-place network of services for the community. The group is still gathering information, and was interested in knowing the range of programs and services that we provide through the Town. This program is based loosely on the pioneer model on Beacon Hill and neighboring communities of Cambridge and Newton.

7. The Watertown Commission on Disabilities has invited Board members to their holiday party on December 21, 2011 from seven to nine pm.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox